

CLAIMS

1. A computer implemented process for capturing the visual form of information from an application executed on a computer into a database, comprising:

- receiving the visual form of the data from the application;
- 5 receiving tags corresponding to the visual form of the data; and
- storing the visual form of the data as a vector image and the tags into the database.

2. The computer implemented process of claim 1, wherein the database comprises:

- a first table for storing tags corresponding to the visual form of the data and a
- 10 reference to the visual form of the data; and
- a second table for storing the visual form of the data as a vector image with a reference to the visual form of the data.

3. A database for storing the visual form of data from an application executed on a computer, comprising:

- a first table for storing tags corresponding to the visual form of the data and a reference to the visual form of the data; and
- a second table for storing the visual form of the data as a vector image with a reference to the visual form of the data.

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4. A computer system for accessing a database in which visual form of data from applications executed on one or more computers are stored as vector images, comprising:

- means for searching the database to identify one or more vector images;
- means for sorting the identified vector images according to tags associated with the
- 25 identified vector images; and
- means for permitting a user to select one or more of the identified vector images; and
- means for displaying the selected vector images.

5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the database comprises:

- 30 a first table for storing tags corresponding to the visual form of the data and a reference to the visual form of the data; and

a second table for storing the visual form of the data as a vector image with a reference to the visual form of the data.

6. The computer system of claim 4, further comprising:

5 means for scaling the displayed vector images and redisplaying the scaled vector image.

7. The computer system of claim 4, further comprising:

means for searching for text in the selected vector images.

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8. A computer implemented process for sending a selected portion of visual form of data from a first application to a second application, comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication of a selected area of the visual form of the data;

receiving an indication of the second application;

15 determining keystrokes in the second application for pasting data into the second application;

determining data representing the selected area of the visual form of the data;

transferring the determined data to a memory area from which the second application may paste data; and

20 sending the determined keystrokes to the second application.

9. A computer implemented process for converting a visual form of text data into character delimited text data for insertion into tabular structure, comprising:

receiving an indication of a selected area of the visual form of the data;

25 initializing data representing presence of text within the selected area along a horizontal extent for all rows of text;

modifying the initialized data to indicate the presence of text within the selected area along the horizontal extent for all rows of text;

30 for each row of text, generating character delimited data according to the text in the row and the column boundaries identified in the row.

10. A computer-implemented process for searching for text in a vector image including commands specifying text and horizontal and vertical coordinates for placement of the text, comprising:

- 5        sorting the commands in the vector image according to the vertical coordinates;
- ordering the sorted commands in the vector image according to the horizontal coordinates; and
- generating a list structure representing an ordering of the text from the ordered commands.

10 11. A service layer for controlling access to a database, comprising:

means, operative in response to a request to store data in the database, for:

- encoding the data,
- performing an error checking calculation on the data, and
- storing the encoded data and a result of the error checking calculation in the database;

15 and

means, operative in response to a request to read data from the database, for:

- decoding the read data,
- performing an error checking calculation on the read data,
- comparing a result of the error checking calculation of the read data with the
- 20       stored result of the error checking calculation performed on the stored data and
- identifying any discrepancy, and
- providing the decoded read data and an indication of any discrepancy identified
- between the stored and read data.

25 12. The service layer of claim 11, wherein the database comprises:

      a first table for storing tags corresponding to a visual form of data from an application and a reference to the visual form of the data; and

      a second table for storing the visual form of the data as a vector image with a reference to the visual form of the data.

13. A computer system for storing a visual form of data from a plurality of different applications executed on a plurality of computers into a database accessible to a plurality of computers, comprising:

5 a database for storing the visual form of data with corresponding tags identifying the visual form of the data;

a processor on each of the plurality of computers executing the applications having a first input for receiving the visual form of the data from one of the plurality of different applications and a second input for receiving the tags corresponding to the visual form of the data and an output for directing the visual form of the data as a vector image and the  
10 corresponding tags into the database; and

a first application on one of the plurality of computers for accessing the tags and the visual form of the data from the database in response to queries on the database.

14. The computer system of claim 13, further comprising:

15 a second application for creating documents including the visual form of data retrieved from the database and for storing the created documents into the database using the processor.

15. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the database comprises:

20 a first table for storing tags corresponding to the visual form of the data and a reference to the visual form of the data; and

a second table for storing the visual form of the data as a vector image with a reference to the visual form of the data.

16. A computer implemented process for processing a vector image to enable scaling of text  
25 in the vector image, comprising:

identifying commands in the vector image corresponding to text; and  
converting specified fonts in the identified commands to scalable fonts.

17. A computer-implemented process for creating compound documents from the visual form  
30 of data from applications executed on a computer stored in a database, comprising:

capturing the visual form of information from the applications into a database, by  
receiving the visual form of the data from the application;

receiving tags corresponding to the visual form of the data; and  
storing the visual form of the data as a vector image and the tags into the  
database;

retrieving from the database the visual form of information from the applications;

5       creating a compound document from the visual form of information retrieved from the  
database; and

capturing the visual form of the compound document into the database, by

receiving the visual form of the compound document from the application;

receiving tags corresponding to the visual form of the compound document;

10       and

storing the visual form of the compound document as a vector image and the  
tags into the database.

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